

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER



Season's Greeting to my fellow Americans.

We at the U.S. Embassy want to wish all American citizens and our friends here a joyous holiday season and a new year of happiness and good health. We hope you will have a merry (and safe!) holiday, and enjoy the Mongolian winter. Best wishes to you and your families.



Warmest wishes,
Ambassador Piper Campbell

CONSULAR SECTION IN SOCIAL MEDIA

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Outreach Activities in Arkhangai

On October 22, Vice Consul Rumley visited Tsetserleg city of Arkhangai for outreach meetings with American citizens and tourists. He also met with the representatives from the Mayor's office and the police staff exchanging views on how to best prepare for emergency situations and possible ways to handle criminal cases involving American citizens. The Tsetserleg city government will soon initiate a registration program catering to foreign visitors in the area. Through the voluntary registration, visitors will receive a security briefing and be notified of possible security threats during their stay in the area.



Be Aware of Holiday Online Shopping Scams



During the holiday shopping season, with more shoppers than ever using mobile devices and computers for holiday shopping, many are inadvertently leaving themselves vulnerable to online fraud and scams. Please stay alert for the following 12 most common online shopping scams.

1 **Phony E-tailers**

Phony e-tailers may try to lure you into giving your credit card or other personal information by promoting great deals. Shop only on known websites.

2 **Phony Shipping Notifications**

Look out for shipping notifications for packages you didn't order. You may end up with malicious code or having personal information compromised.

3 **Hot Holiday Gift Scams**

Hot holiday gifts often sell out early. Be suspicious of any deal mentioning hot holiday gift items, especially at extremely low prices. Verify the offer before claiming.

4 **Bogus Gift Cards**

Be wary of buying gift cards from 3rd parties; it is best to buy from the official retailer. Don't spend real money on a fake gift card.

5 **Fake Charities**

As you open your hearts and wallets, be sure to verify the legitimacy of the charity before you donate.

6 **Malicious e-Cards**

Be careful before clicking on or downloading holiday screensavers, ringtones, or e-cards. Many of these carry malicious code.

7 **Malvertisements**

Malicious online ads, used to spread malware, can be found on legitimate websites. If you're interested in the product, don't click the ad. Instead use a search engine to find it.

8 **Social Media Scams**

Cyber criminals use promotions and contests on Facebook and Twitter to gather personal information. Be careful before providing info to any 3rd party.

9 **Travel Scams**

Cyber criminals use travel-related scams to gain personal or financial information. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

10 **Banking/PayPal Scams**

Don't automatically trust emails from your bank, PayPal, or other financial institutions. Don't click on links in emails, instead type the website yourself.

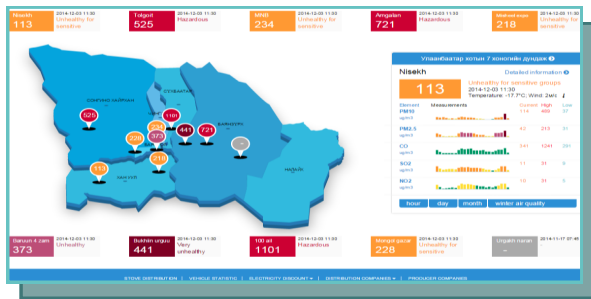
11 **Malicious Mobile Apps**

Mobile applications like games, wallpaper, or music can carry malware designed to steal information from your smartphone or send out text messages.

12 **SMiShing**

SMiShing is phishing via text message. Don't click on links in messages that appear to come from your bank asking you to verify information or visit a (phony) website. Type in the real website address yourself.

Air quality Index



The World Health Organization has listed Ulaanbaatar among the top five cities in the world with the worst air quality. Air quality in the winter season frequently falls in the "Hazardous" category on the Air Quality Index Scale (>301). This can cause a wide range of health effects, such as respiratory illness and cardiovascular effects, including heart attacks and strokes. We encourage you to remain indoor during periods of elevated air pollution, limit the duration and physical intensity or wearing N95 masks when outdoors.

You can visit <http://agaar.mn/index?lang=en> to check the air quality index scale for your area and make informed decisions about your day.

Marriageability Affidavit

If you are an American citizen getting married in Mongolia, please remember to register your marriage either at the Center of Civil Registration and Information in Ulaanbaatar city or at the Governor's office of the province you reside in. To register, you need to prepare documents including an affidavit about your current status of marriage. Some have wondered where to locate this document in the U.S. If you are in Mongolia, you can obtain a form called "Marriageability Affidavit" from the consular section and sign it in front of the Consul. You need to make an [online appointment](#) first for notarization service before you come to the embassy. For more information on documentation requirement for marriage registration in Mongolia, please visit [our website](#).



Exit from Mongolia

Visitors who have been in Mongolia for more than 90 days must visit the Mongolian Immigration Office in order to register their departure at least 10 days before traveling. Be aware that requests to exit Mongolia can be denied for reasons such as a pending civil dispute, a pending criminal investigation, or an immigration violation. In such instances, you may not be allowed to leave the country until the dispute is resolved, however long that may be. We are aware of U.S. citizens who have been denied exit visas for more than two years.

TOYS FOR TOTS



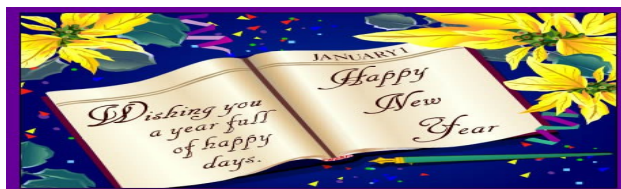
The holiday season is typically a time of giving back. Please consider joining US Marines in this year's "Toys for Tots"

campaign. They are collecting toys for *The Children of the Peak Orphanage*. There are currently 104 children of ages 2-4. If you have a toy that you would like to donate please drop it off at the box in ISU.

The toys will be delivered on December 24th the day before Christmas.

Do you know..

- ♦ It's now possible for Americans to obtain 10-year, multiple-entry visas to China. Each entry is good for up to 60 days. The 10-year visas cost the same as a single-entry visa, about \$160.
- ♦ For intrepid travelers who've been waiting for it to get easier to visit the largest democracy, things are looking up. Citizens of the United States can now apply for a visa on arrival, cutting out the need to visit an Indian embassy and wait in line for a permit. The Ministry of Tourism has just released the details. What you need is a passport valid for six months, a photograph, \$60 and four days. —*Wall Street Journal, India*



Travel Warnings

December 11, 2014	Venezuela
December 4, 2014	Haiti
December 2, 2014	Potential Implications for Travel Because of Ebola in Parts of West Africa
November 26, 2014	Lebanon
November 25, 2014	Democratic Republic of the Congo
November 25, 2014	Djibouti Travel Warning
November 21, 2014	El Salvador Travel Warning
November 20, 2014	Philippines Travel Warning

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please visit this website:

<http://www.travel.state.gov/>

Upcoming Holidays

December 25 — Christmas Day
December 29 — Mongolian Independence Day
January 1— New Years
January 19— Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

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